

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-6, and 9-18 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 19-22 are added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In section 6 on pages 3-14, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 9, and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0018665 to Dovin et al. (hereinafter “Dovin”) in view of Oracle Browser Look and Feel (BLAF) Guidelines version 3.1 by Beier, et al. (hereinafter “Beier”) and U.S. Patent Number 7,421,432 to Hoelzle, et al. (hereinafter “Hoelzle”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites, “when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds a maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, **displaying a number of buttons less than the number of network objects within the hierarchy** between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive.” (emphasis added). Independent claims 6, 11, and 12 contain similar recitations.

The Office Action correctly concedes that Dovin and Beier both fail to disclose this subject matter. However, the Office Action argues that Hoelzle teaches this subject matter, specifically pointing to the text string “Patents > ... > Government Agencies” in FIG. 4. Generally, Hoelzle does not include any teachings regarding

breadcrumb navigation trails. The specification describes various aspects of a browser assistant (numbered 410, 420, 430 in FIG. 4) that performs various functions such as search query generation and document prefetching.

Hoelzle contains no description of the cited text of FIG. 4. Without such description, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not recognize the simple text string as disclosing the above-quoted subject matter. While it may be “proper to take into account . . . the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw,” *M.P.E.P.* § 2144.01, a person of skill in the art would not be reasonably expected to draw the inference that the text string of FIG. 4 shows, *inter alia*, a number of buttons within a hierarchy less than the total number of buttons within the hierarchy. For example, without further description, a person of skill in the art would not recognize the text string as a breadcrumb trail or a number of buttons and would not interpret individual portions of the string as indicating a hierarchy of any kind.

Further, even assuming *arguendo* that the cited text string is a breadcrumb trail including buttons delimited by the ‘>’ character, a person of skill in the art would still not read Hoelzle as disclosing, explicitly or implicitly, the disclosed subject matter. For example, a person of skill in the art would not conclude that the text “Business” discloses the root of a hierarchy, because it is unlikely that Google only indexes information related to business. Likewise, a person of skill in the art would not conclude that the text “Government Agencies” indicates a displayed page.

The location of the browser indicates that the displayed page is located at "http://www.Google.com," (i.e., the root of the website). Thus, it is unlikely that the current displayed page corresponds to a page within any hierarchy, other than the root of all hierarchies.

It is further unclear whether the number of alleged buttons within the text string is less than the total number of buttons within the alleged hierarchy. In light of the practices disclosed by Beier, a person of skill in the art would likely assume that any truncation which may occur with regard to the alleged buttons would only apply to individual buttons as opposed to the list as a whole. As stressed by Beier, a person of skill in the art would believe it of the utmost importance to preserve the breadcrumb trail by not truncating it as a whole, but rather truncating individual labels. Thus, even assuming *arguendo* that the cited text string is a breadcrumb trail (although this is not disclosed) and that the text "..." is a truncation (also this is not disclosed), a person of skill in the art would reasonably infer that this is a truncation of a single button and that the number of alleged buttons within the alleged breadcrumb trail is the **same** as the number of elements within the hierarchy between the first and last alleged buttons. Accordingly, Hoelzle fails to disclose, *inter alia*, "when the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive, exceeds a maximum number of buttons displayable on the terminal, displaying a number of

buttons less than the number of network objects within the hierarchy between the root object and the displayed network object, inclusive.”

Independent claim 1 also recites “displaying an ordered series of a plurality of buttons on the terminal, each button corresponding to a network object within the hierarchy and **being ordered according to a position within the hierarchy** of the corresponding network object” (emphasis added). Independent claims 6, 11, and 12 contain similar recitations. This subject matter is not simply a matter of design choice and instead offers significant benefits. For example, by displaying the the breadcrumb trail in the order according to a position within the hierarchy, the breadcrumb trail provides the added functionality of communicating to the user at a glance the position, depth, dependencies, etc. of a currently viewed network object as well as other objects within the hierarchy.

The Office Action cites Dovin as allegedly disclosing this subject matter, specifically pointing to paragraph [0005]. The cited paragraph, however, states “the links are displayed **in order from a first web page . . . to subsequently visited web pages.**” (emphasis added). Dovin generally discloses no ordering of webpages other than the order in which they are visited. It should be apparent that this ordering method is substantially different than that of the above-quoted subject matter. The ordering method of Dovin will produce link lists that include elements that are not in the order of their alleged hierarchical order, duplicate elements, and elements that are not located within any hierarchy associated with the currently

display webpage. Thus, Dovin fails to disclose “displaying an ordered series of a plurality of buttons on the terminal, each button corresponding to a network object within the hierarchy and being ordered according to a position within the hierarchy of the corresponding network object.”

Independent claim 11 recites, “displaying on each button an icon representing a type of equipment of the corresponding network object.” Independent claim 12 contains a similar recitation. The Office Action cites Dovin as allegedly disclosing this subject matter, pointing to the recitation in paragraph [0014] that “the generated breadcrumb [includes] navigation information for each downloaded webpage.”

The navigation information of Dovin is not the same as an icon. As described in paragraph [0016], the navigation information may be used to enable resumption of navigation by downloading a corresponding webpage. Paragraph [0040] further describes navigation resumption by stating, “the last breadcrumb is retrieved from the breadcrumb information and a location for the current web page is set to the last breadcrumb (i.e., **the URL associated with the last breadcrumb**), thereby resulting in a request being transmitted to the web server 116 for the web page **identified by the URL**, which is serviced by the server 116 and transmitted to the web browser 106 for display.” (emphasis added). A person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the navigation information as a URL or other means for locating a web page, and not an icon. Further, with respect to claim 11, Dovin does

not disclose any indication as to a **type** of webpage, whatever that may be. Accordingly, Dovin fails to disclose the above quoted subject matter.

Claims 4 and 15 depend from claim 1; claims 9 and 16 depend from claim 6; claim 17 depends from claim 11; and claims 13, 14, and 18 depend from claim 12. Accordingly, these claims should be allowable based, at least, on their respective dependencies.

In section 7 on pages 14-20, the Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10 und 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Dovin in view of Beier, Hoelzle, and U.S. Publication Number 2005/0132018 to Milic-Frayling, et al. (hereinafter, "Milic-Frayling").

Claim 5 recites, "while the position of the cursor coincides with a button for which only a portion of a label is displayed, **displaying the label in its entirety.**" (emphasis added). Claim 10 contains a similar recitation. The Office Action cites Milic-Frayling as allegedly disclosing this subject matter. However, Milic-Frayling teaches that "[a] presenting operation 812 presents **a thumbnail of the resource** identified by the resource identifier over which the pointer icon was hovered" (emphasis added). Milic-Frayling teaches displaying **an image** of the identified resource and **not a non-truncated label** for the resource. Thus, Milic-Frayling fails to disclose this subject matter.

In light of the above arguments, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 4-6, and 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn and that an allowance for all claims be entered.

NEW CLAIMS

By this amendment, claims 19-22 are added. Claim 19 depends from independent claim 1; claim 20 depends from independent claim 6, claim 21 depends from independent claim 11; and claim 22 depends from independent claim 12. Claim 19 recites, “[t]he method of claim 1, wherein, when a user has previously selected a number of network objects in a visited order and the visited order is not the same as the order according to the position within the hierarchy of the corresponding network object, the ordered series of the plurality of buttons is ordered according to the position within the hierarchy of the corresponding network object.” Claims 20, 21, and 22 contain similar recitations.

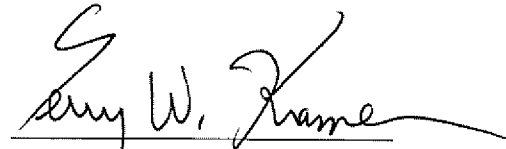
This subject matter finds support in, for example, paragraphs [0017] and [0020], and thus does not constitute new subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that new claims 19-22 be added to the currently pending claims and that an allowance for these claims be entered.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", written over a horizontal line.

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